

BRADLEY UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT

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5/9/2000

TO: 1999 Monterey County Civil Grand Jury
P.O. Box 414
Salinas, CA 93902

FROM: Charles Collins, Superintendent

Please find below our response to the 1999 Monterey County Grand Jury Report Comparison Study of School Districts.

Finding 1:

STAR Results:

- la. In the areas of Reading, Mathematics, Language, and Spelling for grades 2 through 3, Monterey County's averages for students were 19% lower than California Statewide Averages [Exhibit A].
lb. For students in grades 9 through 12, Monterey County's averages were 20% lower than Statewide Averages [Exhibit B] in Mathematics and Reading

Recommendation 1a/1b:

School Board Members and Superintendents use STAR results to evaluate assignment of personnel.

Response to 1:

Bradley is a K-8 school with a student population of 36. There is no level that has 10 or more students. Because of the small number tested, many of the statistical treatments applied to data cannot be done. Currently 60% of the students performed at or above grade level in Reading and 68% in math. There are only two teachers in the district and both have multi-graded classes. Thus, there is little or no opportunity to use STAR results as a way of evaluating assignment of personnel.

Finding 2:

Percentages of Teachers Not Fully Certificated:

During the 1998-SO school year in Monterey County's 24 school districts, there were eight districts that had a teaching staff with over 30% of teachers - of fully certificated [Alisal, Gonzales, Greenfield, Pacific Union, Salinas High, San Ardo, San Lucas and Santa Rita]

In three other districts the percentage was over 40% of non-certificated teachers [Carmel, Chualar, and Spreckels]. Chualar with the highest percentage [58%] of teachers not fully certificated, had the lowest scores in the County in grade 3 and among the lowest in grades 6 and 8 in the STAR results for Reading, Mathematics, and Language.

Recommendation 2:

Hiring practices ensure that certificated teachers are placed in the classroom. While it is recognized not every excellent teacher is fully certificated, it is counter productive to have a high percentage not fully certificated.

Response to #2:

Historically the Bradley School District has not made it a practice to hire less than fully certificated teachers. Currently all staff are fully credentialed

Finding 3:

While nothing illegal was found in compensation costs to School Board Members [which may include stipends, retreats, mileage, individual or family medical insurance, life insurance, and conferences] some costs are excessive and disproportionate.

Recommendation 3:

School Board Members search their collective conscience to determine if school funds could be better spent on students rather than on individuals performing what is a public service.

Response to 3:

Historically and currently members of the Bradley School Board are not compensated for service. Workshops and seminars are chosen carefully; members are reimbursed for mileage and workshop expenses. Members who choose may participate in medical insurance program by paying their own premiums.

Finding 4:

Number and Costs of Criminal Acts on School Grounds-

Monterey County fell within the range of other counties in California

Included in this category were drug and alcohol offenses, weapon possession, and crimes against persons or property. The individual district averages were compared with the County averages.

Recommendation 4:

Each school district ensures that programs in place to help prevent school crime and vandalism are monitored. Those found guilty of crimes be prosecuted to the full extent of the law.

Response to 4:

The Bradley Union School District has had very little vandalism or crime. Programs in place are monitored and the district cooperates fully with all law enforcement agencies.

